

HOPE

VILTIS

HOPE

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V. F. BELIAJUS, 6131 S. Woodlawn Ave. Chicago 37, Ill.



Best wishes
this merry
Season from



Viltis

A SONG OF PEACE

Lloyd Stone

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is.
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams the same as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other skies have sunlight, too, and clover,
And skies are sometimes blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and mine.

LITHUANIAN

Linksmiai praleiskit šventas Kalė-
das ir geroj sveikatoj sulaukit Nau-
jus Metus.

POLISH

Zycze wam wzziptim wesolych Swiat
Bozego Narodzenia i szczesliwego
Nowego Roku.

GREEK

Kala Christougena kai Efikhes Ne-
on Etos.

FRENCH

Acceptez mes meilleurs et sincerés
vœux de joyeux Noel et de bonne
et heureuse Annie.

ITALIAN

Felicità et salute per Natale et
buono Primo D'Anno.

SPANISH

Feliz Navidad y prospero ano nuevo.

SWEDISH

Glad Jul og God Nytt Ar.

NORWEGIAN

Glaedelig Jul og Godt Nyt Aar.

HEBREW

Simkhat Khag ha'Moledet v'Shana
Tova.

PORTUGUESE

Feliz Natal e Prospero Ano Novo.

GERMAN

Froeliches Weihnachten und ein
Glueklichen Neuen Jahr.

JEWISH

Ein Freilachen Krismes un ein glik-
lichen nayem johr.

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

During the time of Christ, the Jewish people were oppressed and persecuted by the ruling Romans. The Jews felt that there was no help for them, and they greatly despaired. Jesus, being a Jew, who realized their great suffering came to bring them hope and faith. He told them not to despair with the pain they suffer now, to think of the happiness that there can be in a future, even if it be only in a life after death. Jesus spent his short life teaching that people must be neighborly and friendly, must help each other in every way possible, must love one another. Because Jesus mixed mostly with the under-privileged, for they suffered most, he did much of his preaching in parables.

Jesus became very popular among the masses of the people. Politicians have always been, and still are, extremely jealous of one who becomes popular and well liked; they tried in every possible way to find fault with Jesus, that they might jail or kill him. There was a certain influential lawyer who thought to trap Christ into statement against the Jewish religion. He asked Jesus, what was the most important tenet, according to Jesus, of the Jewish religion. Christ answered "Hear oh Israel! Our God is our Lord, our God is One. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul. And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." These two rules, Jesus said, were the most important—to love God and to love the neighbor.

And who is my neighbor? Asked the lawyer?

And Jesus told him the parable of the good Samaritan.

"A man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho fell among robbers, who stripped and belabor him and went off, leaving him half-dead. Now it so chanced that a priest was going down the same road, but on seeing him he went past on the other side. So did a Levite who came to the spot; he looked at him but passed on the opposite side. However a Samaritan traveller came to where he was, and felt pity when he saw him. He went to him, bound his wounds up, pouring oil and wine into them, mounted him on his own steed, took him to an inn, and attended to him. Next morning he took out a couple of shillings and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Attend to him, and if you are put to any extra expense, I will refund you on my way back." Which of these three men, in your opinion, proved a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

Naturally, the Samaritan. This is what Christ tried to teach us: regardless of race or color, riches or poverty, we should help each other, be friendly toward one another. This teaching is of greater importance now when the world has become very small, than 2000 years ago. Now, more than ever must we become not only tolerant toward others, but actually be friends with our neighbors and fellow citizens. We dare not entertain any form of racial prejudice, especially, where we, the people of these United States, represent so large a conglomeration of backgrounds. Each of us is a member of some minority. The Negroes are a minority relative to the Whites; but the Whites are a synthesis of minorities. If we seek subdivisions, we are Italian, Greek, Polish, Japanese, Chinese; Croatian, Serbian, Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Russian, English, and other nationalities. If we as members of a majority group start imposing on some minority group, some majority (some other combination of minorities) will eventually impose up on us. Black, White, Yellow—Jew, Protestant, Catholic—Italian, Greek Czech—we are

all Americans of varied backgrounds. We have all contributed to this nation; many have fought and shed blood to maintain its freedom. We are all entitled to the liberty to enjoy all that America offers. Until we overcome these prejudices, until we become good neighbors, and follow the simple tenet of Jesus, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," then we are hastening the conflagration and destruction of the world with our dire and bitter weapons of demolition. In the sincere return to God, the love for God and for our fellow man, lies our only salvation. St. Paul said in First Corinthians, "God is a God of Peace, not of disorder." While St. John said; "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not knows not God; for God is love. (I John, 4:7-8.) This is the only path to world security, world peace and continuance of life on our planet.

V. F. Beliajus.

PEACE ON EARTH

By Cpl. MARION GOSWICK

The night was still and cold, as if the world had drawn the curtains on the stage of worry, fear and homesickness. While the sky, as if some master hand had pinned sequins here and there, the stars sparkled and gleamed.

A heavy quilt of sparkling snow seemed to make the world pure and clean for this Christmas Eve, while each flake of snow on mother earth reflected in competition with the heavens. The moon seemed to shine more brightly this evening to match the glow of wreaths and candles in the windows. Christmas trees were not forgotten, they held their place and marked the season.

As he walked along the willage street, he thought of the first Christmas. He thought how the heavens must have been seen in magnificent splendor. Somewhere in the distance he heard "Silent Night, Holy Night." Yes, that night was a silent night and the most holy night.

He walked by homes, windows aglow with yellow beams and on the inside happy families experiencing the joy gifts and love. Quite like the Shepherds of old, they too were gathered with their folds when the heavens opened and angels sang, "Peace on Earth, Good will towards men."

As the feet crushed the snow, he thought surely that was a beautiful and great night. For some reason tonight seemed like that night. To hear children singing and to see homes alive, peace was surely here.

Quite before he knew it was in the other part of the village, where homes were not quite as pretty and warm, but the spirit was the same. The meager homes seemed to shine in holiness this evening, even as the manger did on that first Christmas.

All of a sudden he thought, forty-one—two—three—four — four Christmases of War. Four long years of people wondering, working, hoping, and praying for peace. Now in 1945 a peaceful Christmas.

He knew in many homes there were loved ones who were absent, and in many homes those who had returned. But he also realize that peace was and tomorrow calling.

As he opened the door to the rooming house, he looked up the flight of stairs and strange but tonight they weren't the same steps, they were 1946. They had meaning, and as he went up step by step, he reached the top and paused and the carollers voices came clear and sweet "Peace on Earth, Good will towards men."